

Established 1889

The Kings Mountain Herald

206 South Piedmont Ave. Kings Mountain, N. C. 28086

A weekly newspaper devoted to the promotion of the general welfare and published for the enlightenment, entertainment and benefit of the citizens of Kings Mountain and its vicinity, published every Thursday by the Herald Publishing House. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086 under Act of Congress of March 3, 1873.

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MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

When my friend Jim Dumbell, now the veteran director of photography for the Charlotte Observer, coned a freshman English instructor into an "A" by presenting a photograph bearing the notation "a picture is worth a 1000 words", in use of a theme, he may have taken a cue from Life Magazine, which had rather well proved the point in the summer of 1936.

Henry Luce, already a successful publisher with Time and Fortune, had added Life to his stable. Life was indeed "new". Copy essentially to cutlines under the pictures and the pictures told the story.

Life became a weekly "must" for millions of people. Indeed, Life's readers and harried news dealers got a pre-World War II taste of rationing. Even a year after Life was born, when I was jerking soda, bottling ten-cent doses of castor oil, selling bus tickets, hopping curb and doing other chores for Don Blanton and Johnny McGill at Kings Mountain Drug Company, Life was an under-the-counter item. The weekly draw was reserved for the "regulars", those that there were none to display and offer for sale on the newsstand. It was sometimes embarrassing when the sometime-Life reader was told "no", then heard another guy demand, "I want My Life." Instructions to whisper were passed the regulars and there were times we wrapped some of the draw to avoid such embarrassments.

Maybe I was a writin' man at heart, or maybe I was just jealous because I was not then, nor have ever been since, an artist with a camera, but I do have a few Life memories.

The most personal one occurred in Casablanca during World War II. Elliot Eliofson, one of the early-bird Life camera aces, strolled into the communications office looking for places and people "to shoot." I was duly impressed, though no more than when an American lieutenant-commander made call one day, and proved to be a refugee in his civilian pursuit from the Manchester, England, Guardian newsroom.

It was about that time, late 1942, I acquired another college friend from Smithfield as both work-mate and roommate and from this association I married the Time section of the Luce publishing family. St. Clair Pugh not Time, I began reading, and I've been reading Time ever since.

There was a girl I knew at Chapel Hill who later worked for Time-Life as a researcher and in 1955 my wife and I, on a short weekend at Blowing Rock, came to know a Mrs. Shangrun, of New York. She told us of a young friend who was employed by Time-Life. The young photographer-reporter had interviewed an Indian prince, visiting in New York, fell in love with him and married him.

Mrs. Shangrun, a pianist herself and mother of a concert pianist, said there was one joker in her friend's deck. The prince, in his country permitted four wives, already had three. The young Time-Life girl became Number 4. Everything was fine in New York. When the prince and his new bride got to India, the situation wasn't good. The prince did not reside in Calcutta, New Delhi, or Karachi, but far into the interior hill country, minus electric refrigerators, indeed minus electricity. This new bride managed to manage.

The late Otis Falls was fond of teasing people with the statement, "There's only two kinds of people." My fall-in-the-trap serious reply was, "There's the redman, the brown man, the black man, the white man and the yellow man. That's eleven, ain't it?" "Ain't but two kinds of people," he reiterated. "Ha, ha. Male and female."

Mrs. Shangrun's young friend found the truth of Otis' contention. The first three wives quit fighting among themselves and turned their attention to Number 4. At the time, the young American girl was still toughing it out.

What caused Life's demise? Always there are many factors, among them the high and escalating costs of people, paper, machines and even television, where the picture also talks.

Demise of a publication, particularly a 36-year veteran like Life is always sad. Shed a tear for Life.

Viewpoints of Other Editors

WHEN SNOW COMES . . .

NO SUBSTITUTE

Everybody can benefit from a little constructive criticism. But, too much criticism is neither constructive nor helpful. This seems to be the state which has been reached with regard to criticism of many of the institutions and practices fundamental to the successful functioning of competitive enterprise in a free market system.

So far as the consumer is concerned, the free-working of the competitive marketplace is the best guarantee of quality and fair treatment. He gets what he wants in merchandise as well as promotional devices used to attract his business. For example, 34 million families in the U. S. save trading stamps issued by a leading trading stamp company that pioneered the development of this type of promotion. A research organization has found that 78 per cent of women save stamps, and 73 per cent of men contribute to their family's trading stamp collection. Merchants have learned that trading stamps over the years remain a most effective means of building sales and patronage of their businesses. An interesting sidelight to this is now seen in various areas of the country in the operation of local supermarkets. Keen competition has pushed prices of many items below cost and profit levels to record lows. Where further price reduction is a dead-end street, many merchants have found that reinstating the use of trading stamps has been effective in building sales and profits while still holding prices at the lowest possible level.

Critics of vital free market institutions can ply their trade with little effort. No ability and minimum knowledge is needed in most cases. But, we should remember that nobody has come up with a better system to assure that the consumer gets what he wants in the way of goods and services as well as in the methods of promotion used to attract his patronage. — The Cherryville Eagle.

A BETTER WAY TO LIST TAXES

Johnston County's system of listing personal property for taxation needs to be modernized. Sitting down with a tax lister every January and trying to come up with a reasonable valuation of your personal property is an arbitrary method of listing that just isn't fair. Some folks list too high. Many others list too low. We need some across-the-board standard to ensure fairer tax valuations.

A number of North Carolina counties have adopted a streamlined system of tax listing that fosters fairness while reducing administrative costs. Each year the individual taxpayer is mailed a card for listing his real and personal property. He may list each item of personal property he owns, or he may elect to enter a percentage of the value of his dwelling as his household property valuation. (Of course, major items such as automobiles, farm machinery, and livestock are always listed separately.) For example, a taxpayer in Forsyth county may take 10 per cent of the value of his dwelling as the value of his household property, instead of listing his refrigerator, furniture, clothes and so forth. And if he rents his home, he may take six times his monthly rent as his household property valuation. The completed card is then returned to the county tax office for routine processing, which is done by computer in several counties.

Johnston's county commissioners have talked about modernizing our tax-listing system here. But so far, little study has been done. Now would be a good time to review the situation and start planning for an improved tax-listing process that could be instituted next January. — Smithfield Herald.

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items of news about Kings Mountain area people and events taken from the 1963 files of the Kings Mountain Herald.

The place for bike riding is on the street, not on the sidewalk, Mayor Kelly Dixon said Wednesday.

Possible establishment of a home for the aging in Kings Mountain is scheduled to be the leading item on the agenda of the Monday morning meeting of the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association.

The city board of commissioners will discuss Thursday night whether to call a new registration of city voters prior to the May biennial election.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. W. Leonard Ware announce the marriage of their daughter, Peggy Grace, to Chalmers Johnson, son of Mrs. E. H. Johnson and the late Mr. Johnson. The wedding took place October 11, 1962.

David Dwight Alexander, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight L. Alexander, was two years old January 8th.

KINGS MOUNTAIN Hospital Log

VISITING HOURS
Daily 10:30 to 11:30 A.M.
3 to 4 P.M. and 7 to 8 P.M.

Mrs. Manda R. Barber
Mrs. Pearl E. Bridges
Mrs. Bobby M. Caldwell
Ralph Chamption
Mrs. Julia A. Condry
Rochel Lee Conner
Moses Crank
Mrs. Martha R. Deese
James H. Fields
Mrs. J. J. Hicks
Mrs. Bertha K. Hullender
Mrs. Lott'e B. Jackson
Mrs. Rhea K. Lewis
Mrs. Ora D. Mauney
Walter M. Moorhead
Willie Ione McGill
Mrs. Ethel L. McMillan
Glenn A. McMillan
Marvin F. Neal
Mrs. Violet Louise Oliver
Shufford E. Packett
Mrs. Oscar W. Patterson
George E. Peck
Mrs. Fred Pritchard
Mrs. Lillie E. Reynolds
Mrs. John A. Richardson
Mrs. Leslie Sprouse
Annie Mae Ware
Ella H. Woodblood
Mrs. Horace E. Hardy
Thomas V. Hill
Mrs. Sarah Jane Howell
Mrs. Loyd W. Penner
Mrs. Charles E. Stewart
Madison M. Wilson

ADMITTED WEDNESDAY
Mrs. Ernest W. Ayers, Rt. 1, Box 176A, Clover
Julius A. Burton, 900 Church St., City
Mrs. Robert D. Falls, Box 181, Lattimore
Mrs. Raymond Smith, 110 N. Sims St., City

ADMITTED THURSDAY
Nell E. Elliott, 104 Battle-ground Avenue, City

ADMITTED FRIDAY
Robert D. Burchfield, 35 Ranlo Avenue, Gastonia
John A. Cheshire, 107 Country Club Road, City
Johnny Thomas Frazier, General Delivery, Grover
Mrs. Dewey G. Grigg, 508 Mill Street, City
Clayton H. Means, 215 Parrish Dr., City
Thomas B. Payne, Jr., Rt. 1, Orange Station, N. C.
Sarah Frances Smith, Rt. 1, Box 178, Grover
Leslie B. Sprouse, 110 Cloninger St., City
May H. Wright (Mary), 494 East Ridge Street, City

ADMITTED SATURDAY
Mrs. Willie Faust, 906 W. Carolina Avenue, Bessemer City
Mrs. Hugh Lackey, Rt. 1, Box 188A, Shelby

ADMITTED SUNDAY
Mrs. Marvin Hall, Rt. 2, Box 95, Bessemer City
Wm. F. McGill, Rt. 1, Box 119, City
Henry William Postell, Rt. 1, Box 718, City
Mrs. Andy Rector, Rt. 1, Fairview Dr., Gastonia
Harry Edward Wallace, Rt. 1, Box 32Q, York, S. C.

ADMITTED MONDAY
Mrs. Burman Bryant, 1002 First St., City
Mrs. Mary L. Gore, Rt. 1, Box 315, City
William W. Sutherland, Rt. 9, Shelby
Thomas Bridges, 115 Spruce Street, City

HERALD Letter To Editor

Ed. Note—The Herald reprints as a letter to the editor the following letter addressed to Chief of Police Tom McDevitt

Chief Thomas E. McDevitt
Kings Mountain, N. C.

Dear Mr. McDevitt

I would like for you to put an article on your editorial page of your Kings Mountain paper expressing my deepest appreciation for the way your men handled themselves Monday, "New Years Day", during the (funeral procession) as we passed through with the body of my husband, Oris Woodrow Hamrick. I have never seen such reverence in my life as your men displayed. I was deeply touched, and so many, many people here in Gastonia have said the same thing. It really made me feel, as he was, a prince was passing through, for that is exactly what he was! A prince of a fellow. He also was a deputy. Several years ago, he was a Security Guard at Firestone Mill at the time of his death. (and a good one). Please excuse me for bragging on him so much, but that's exactly the way I felt about him. I have lost my Dear, est.

Mr. McDevitt, please do this as you see fit for your paper because I have made such a mess in writing this. Many, Many Thanks for your courtesy.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Oris Woodrow Hamrick
1713 Poston Circle
Gastonia, N. C. 28052

TRANSPLANTING

When transplanting, evergreens require a rootball normally don't. There are some exceptions, however, for deciduous plants. According to North Carolina State University extension horticulturists, deciduous plants need a rootball when they have a trunk diameter greater than 3 inches, are considered difficult to transplant such as dogwoods and magnolias, or are transplanted in the summer or when they are in leaf.

Somebody Erred

The city's utility customers knew something had to be wrong, when their New Year's utility bill greeting arrived. Majority of residential customers found power service charges up from 40 to 50 percent.

Somebody did err, but not the billing machine.

The much larger bills came from the new rate schedules which the city commission, in its ill-wisdom had adopted, and, in its wisdom, has already moved to revise downward.

Who erred?

The city commission erred in adopting the report of Southeastern Consulting Engineers, Inc., after pledging merely to pass on the rate increase granted Duke Power Company, which did not approach the 33.8 percent increase for residential customers the engineers recommended.

The engineers erred either in missing the signals or in finding it an easy chore to append as recommended rates Duke Power Company's schedules. It is also a mystery how the engineers could recommend a decrease for the small three-customer outside commercial account, yet recommend a 39.9 percent increase for Kings Mountain Public Housing Authority. The latter is the beautiful kind of account any utility seller would want: one-meter billing and no collection problems. The housing authority pays the tab for 150 dwelling units, billed through nine meters at the several sites.

Some history:

Anyone who has kept abreast of the city's financial history over two decades and more knows that the city has lived and breathed, minus excessive property taxes, off its utilities profits. Fifteen - sixteen years ago, the electrical system was showing a gross operating profit of \$125,000 per year. It was a heavy load for this utility to carry and any city commissioner of the era would be quick to acknowledge that the distribution system was being robbed, from standpoint of upgrading for today and growth anticipation for tomorrow, to pay the city's other freight.

In 1955, the city turned on the natural gas and this utility quickly came to the aid of its electrical brother, providing annually growing profits to 1) permit electrical system improvements without borrowing money and 2) to share in defraying other city expenses.

Back to errors:

Southeastern specialists, it contends, in electrical engineering and advice to power-selling cities, all either North Carolina customers of Duke, Carolina Power & Light Company, or Virginia Electric & Power Company, with one spill-over into South Carolina where South Carolina Electric & Gas Company is the supplier.

But in the Kings Mountain report, Southeastern writes: "In general, it is desirable to match the rates of adjacent utilities where minimum cost requirements can be met. It is recommended that the same general conditions of service offered by Duke Power Company, such as power factor correction clauses, demand ratchets, and contract minimum demands be adopted along with the proposed rates."

There is one fact of life these specialists for the cities apparently have not absorbed:

Duke Power Company is a TAX-PAYING regulated public utility, while power-selling municipalities are TAX-COLLECTING agencies.

It should be possible for Southeastern to return with minimum of time, sweat and tears, with a recommendation from Duke's "RW" residence-with-water heater schedule. A customer using 1100 kilowatt hours power in a month paid \$18.59 under the city's old rate. Under Duke "R", the city's new rate, he pays \$27.01, an increase of 45 percent. Under Duke's "RW" schedule, \$21.61, an increase of slightly over 16 percent.

If there appears an imbalance in Duke's over-all WHOLESALE rate increase, it must be remembered that Duke's percentage increase was on the city's former wholesale rate, while the city's percentage increase is on profit-making RETAIL rates.

Ran Tough Job Well

Edwin S. Lanier, retired commissioner of insurance, had as tough a job as anyone in government, certainly toughest in the council of state, perhaps even tougher on a continual and continuing basis than the governor's.

The role of the commissioner of insurance (and same can be said for commissioner of labor, a post Frank Crane left via retirement) is that of middle man between warring factions.

It is the commissioner's duty to be the middle man, the baseball umpire who "calls 'em as he sees 'em" within the framework of the rules. It is the commissioner's duty to be fair in setting insurance rates: fair to the insurance companies, which deserve an honest profit, and fair to the customers' companies which deserve protection against gouging.

Perhaps the auto caused Mr. Lanier his greatest continuing headache. His administration was marked by inflation generally, and, specifically, increasing cost of automobiles and automotive repairs, increasing cost of medical and hospital care, and the dollar value (crassness not intended) of life itself.

Obviously, the insurance underwriters needed higher premium income, and, of course, were quite willing and able to ask it.

On the other side were the auto owners, required by state law to buy minimal auto liability coverage, and choking just about everytime their policies reached expiration date, as premium costs escalated.

Mr. Lanier was roundly flayed, and frequently, by both groups.

That fact must be interpreted to mean that Commissioner Lanier ran his job and ran it well.

Bid On Surplus

Governor Terry Sanford in 1961 thought he could meet his campaign pledge to up teacher pay out of a tobacco tax, but couldn't sell it.

Eight years later, Governor Bob Scott did sell a tobacco tax, but not in the degree anticipated. He called for a five-cent tax per package of cigarettes and couldn't sell it. As a result, the then-new governor got his money but with a two-cent tax per package of fags, and a one-cent crown tax on soft drinks.

The hodge-podge gave Scott his money, but took much coin from the pockets of soft-drinkers and weed users. The two cents escalated to five and the one cent to five in the market place. The makers of these products reaped more coin than did the state treasurer. Shed no tear, however, for the state's money-bags man did very well indeed.

There is a movement afoot in the legislature to repeal one or both, in view of the impending record surplus.

Not likely.

Since everybody else is putting in their bids for that slush fund, the Herald might as well, too.

The drafty old gingerbread Governor's Mansion was built by Governor T. J. Jarvis, like Luther Hodges a term-and-one-half man, Governor Jarvis serving the state from 1879, when Governor Zeb Vance died in office, to 1885.

It's about time the state thought about providing up-to-date diggings for its governor and his family. The home-folks don't matter much, maybe, but the Governor does entertain many guests from other states. The guests deserve better.

NOTICE

The Annual Shareholders Meeting of the Home Savings and Loan Association will be held in the Home Office at 106 East Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, N. C. the 23rd of January 1973 at 5 P.M.

Nancy S. Scism
Secretary

12:28-1-11

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